(e) and (f) Yes Sir,. In this regard, a meeting was held on 5.3.2007 in the Ministry of Agriculture. The Government has not considered the request.

Application of ID Act 1947 to SBC, Visakhapatnam

1779. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 1716 dated 29th August, 2007 and State:

(a) whether Contractor/Sub-contractor like L&T, Lodka, Ultra Dimensions, Neo Power, Rantech, Bharat Steel, etc., are engaged in fabrication and other jobs within SBC;

(b) if so, whether the jobs entrusted to the private parties are treated as "interest of national security"; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Target for textile exports

†1780. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set textiles export target of around 25 billion Dollar for the years 2007-08;

(b) if so, the steps taken to achieve this target;

(c) whether it is a fact that traders of readymade garment sector are facing problems; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to solve these problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Government have set a target for exports of textiles at USD 25.06 billion for the financial year 2007-08.

(b) Various steps have been taken by the Government for the growth of textiles industry, which include:—

(i) 100% Foreign Direct Investment is allowed in the textiles sector under the automatic route.

(ii) The Government has de-reserved readymade garments, hosiery and knitwear from the Small Scale Industry (SSI) sector.

(iii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1.4.1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector. The TUFS has been extended beyond 31.3.2007 and has been modified in consultation with the industry and approved by the Competent Authority w.e.f. 1st November 2007. The Scheme is now in operation. For the speedy modernisation of the textiles processing sector, Government has introduced, w.e.f. 20.4.2005, a credit linked capital subsidy scheme @10% under TUFS, in addition to the existing 5% interest reimbursement.

(iv) A new "Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks" has been formulated by merging the "Scheme for Apparel Parks for Exports" and the "Textiles Centre Infrastructure

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Development Scheme", in order to expand the production base of the textiles and garment sector.

(v) The fiscal duty structure has been generally rationalised to achieve growth and maximum value addition within the country. Except for mandatory excise duty on man-made filament yarns and man-made staple fibres, the whole value addition chain has been given the option of excise exemption.

(vi) The import of specified textiles and garment machinery has been allowed at a concessional rate of customs duty to encourage investment and to make our textiles product competitive in the global market. The cost of machinery has also been reduced through fiscal policy measures.

(vii) The Duty-free import of 21 items of trimmings and embellishment items is allowed to garment exporters. This can be upto 3% of their ac[illegible] export performance during the previous year.

(viii) Modifications in fiscal levies provided over successive budgets in recent years aim at attracting more investments for modernization of textile sector.

(ix) To facilitate import of state of the art machinery to make our products internationally competitive in post quota regime, the customs duty on textile machinery has been brought down to 10% except 23 machinery appearing in List 49 which attracts Basic Customs Duty (BCD) of 15%.

(c) and (d) Textiles Export Promotion Councils/bodies have been representing that due to the steep appreciation of Indian Rupee *vis-a-vis* USD over the last 12 months, there has been a fall in exports and the apparel segment has been the worst affected sector. As per provisional DGCIS's statistics, the exports of ready made Garments have shown a decline of 13.87% in dollar term during the period April-June 2007, compared to the corresponding period of the preceding year. The government has introduced since July 07 several relief measures for Textiles exporters for absorbing the adverse effect of the strong rupee. The measures include:

(i) DEPB rates enhanced by 3% for 9 sectors including textiles (also handlooms), RMGs and handicrafts. For other items. DEPB rates enhanced by 2%.

(ii) ECGC premium reduced by 10%.

(iii) Amount of Rs. 600 crore released for clearing arrears of CST reimbursement and terminal excise duty.

(iv) Duty drawback rates enhanced by 10-40% of the existing rates.

(v) Subvention on credit rate allowed upto 4% including interest subsidy of 2%.

(vi) Refund of service tax paid by exporters on services linked to export of goods such as port services of exports, transport of goods by road from container depot to port of export, general insurance services for insurance of goods for export, technical testing and analysis agency services and inspection and certification services, storage & warehousing services and clearing activity services.

(vii) Customs duty on intermediates for Polyester staple fibre and polyester filament yarn reduced from 7.5% to 5%.

(viii) Customs duty on paraxylene, a raw material for the intermediate PTA reduced from 2% to 0%.

(ix) Customs duty reduced on other man-made filament yarn & staple fibres of acrylic & viscose from 10% to 5%.

(x) Customs duty reduced in spun yarn of man-made staple fibres & filament yarn (other than nylon) from 10% to 5%.

(xi) Customs duty reduced in polyester chips from 7.5% to 5%.

Promotion of handloom products in other countries

1781. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether khadi and handloom products are proposed to be marketed abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Indian handloom products are fast gaining popularity among European fashionists; and

(d) the action plan of Government to promote handloom products from India, especially from Orissa, to other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Handloom and Khadi products are already marketed in the overseas markets.

(b) As per the available data, the total value of exports of cotton handloom products during 2002-03 stood at Rs. 2633.27 crore. In the absence of separate ITC (HS) codes for handloom products, the export data for handloom products is not available from April 2004 onwards. For promotion of export of handloom products, a Scheme under the name of Marketing and Export Promotion has been approved for implementation during the Eleventh Plan. A scheme for promotion of export of Khadi & V.I. products, including Khadi is also under implementation.

(c) Due to absence of export data for handlooms from April 2004 onwards, the trend for handloom exports could not be monitored.

(d) The Government has been taking following steps to promote handloom products from India, including Orissa, to other countries:

(i) Handloom Export Promotion Council has been conducting various awareness seminars/workshops regularly in important weaving centres of the country including Orissa in which subjects such as technological development on handloom weaving for productivity and product diversification, export documentation & procedures, common dyeing defect in handloom fabrics and its remedy, concept of handloom designs and colour combination etc. are dealt with.

(ii) Participation in international fairs and exhibitions on regular basis. The Orissa State Handloom Weavers Cooperative Society Ltd., Bhubaneshwar, which is an Apex society of Orissa has been given preference to participate in international fairs being held in India and abroad.

(iii) Handloom Export Scheme, which was in operation during the 10th Plan provided assistance to the handloom agencies in developing diversified range of handloom